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Date: December 14, 2006

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Quyen Nguyen)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/669,204  
Confirmation No.: 2631  
Filing Date: 09/23/2003  
Inventor(s): Russell A. HOUSER et al.  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR TREATING TISSUE  
Examiner: A. Farah  
Group Art Unit: 3735

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**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated July 14, 2006 for which a response was due on October 14, 2006. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a two-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to December 14, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.